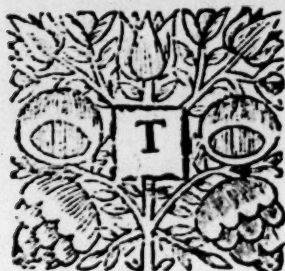


To the Right Honourable
The KNIGHTS, CITIZENS & BURGESSES
Assembled in
PARLIAMENT.

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The Humble Petition of the several and numerous Creditors of the Goldsmiths concerned in His MAJESTIES Exchequer.

Most humbly Sheweth,



That your Petitioners (being encouraged and invited by the Securities of the Common and Statute Laws of this Realm, and his Majesties gracious and inviolable Promises given unto the said Goldsmiths, and their Creditors) placed some their whole, and others, the greatest part of their Estates in the said Goldsmiths hands, and found just dealings, till about *December 1671.* that a stop was put to any further Payment out of His Majesties Exchequer; since when they have not only failed of their Interest (which was most of your Petitioners dayly Bread) but also of their Principal.

That some of your Petitioners are poor Widdows and Orphants, who having put their Mites into the said Goldsmiths hands for their Maintenance; are left Moneyless, Helpless, and Friendless.

That others of your Petitioners having with hard and painful Labour and Travel in their Youths, got together some small Estate to maintain them in their old Age, for Surety put the same into the said Goldsmiths hands.

That many put their Estates for Surety in the said Goldsmiths hands till their Children came to Age, to put them to Prentice, and to bestow others in Marriage; and others for want of their Monies being out of their Times of Apprenticeship cannot set up their Trades.

That others of your Petitioners lost their Estates, exposed their Persons, and brought Themselves, their Wives & Children to beggery, in Defence of his Majesties and Fathers Royal Persons and Crowns in the late Rebellion, (of which some of them bear about them the Honourable Marks) & only Saved from Violence and Rapine a small pittance which they also put in the said Goldsmiths hands to buy Bread in their Old Age, and are now unable to Work for more.

That some by suffering the loss of part of their Estates becoming Debtors themselves are cast into Lothsome Jayles, for want of their own, to satisfy their Creditors, where, without your Honours Compassion they are like to continue.

The Consequence of which hath been, that many of them have been (and are) ready to Perish for Want.

That some Laying to Heart their great Misery, are Distracted.

That others (through Grief) broke their Hearts and died miserably, leaving behind them both disconsolate Widowes and miserable Children, without either Friends or Money to help them in their most extreame Necessity. With many other innumerable and unexpressible Wants and Grievances, Occasioned by the said Goldsmiths Non-payment of their Debts.

Your Petitioners therefore most humbly implore Your Honours (for the sake of the Great God of Heaven and Earth) That Commiserating their most Sad and Deplorable Condition, Your Honours will be pleased (out of Your great Care of Property) to Consider of some Effectual way for the Reliefe of Your Petitioners, by Enabling them to find out some Course to Receive their just Debts, as to Your Great Wisdoms shall seem meet.

And your Petitioners (as in Duty Bound) shall ever Pray, &c.